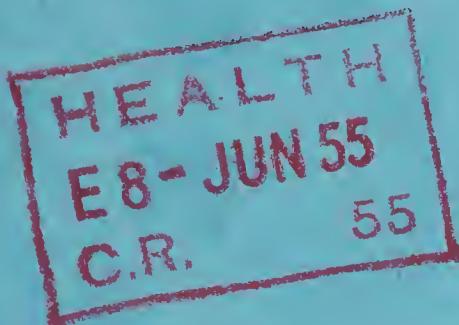


Library

Borough of Ludlow



ANNUAL REPORT of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1954

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

JAMES L. GREGORY,

M.B., CH.B., F.R.F.P.S., D.P.H., D.T.M, AND H.Y.

SANITARY INSPECTOR:

H. V. JAMES,

M.I.M.E., CERT. R.S.I.

CONTENTS OF REPORT

Section A ... STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Section B ... GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Section C ... SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH.

Section D ... HOUSING.

Section E ... INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Section F ... PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

BOROUGH OF LUDLOW

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

LUDLOW,

9th May, 1955.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Report on the health of the Borough for the year ending on the 31st December, 1954.

The estimated population of the Borough as at mid-year 1954 was 6,500. This shows an increase of 48 as compared with the estimate for the previous year.

The Birth-rate was 16.3 and the Death-rate was 10.9. Both these rates compare favourably with the rates for the country as a whole, the Birth-rate being higher than the Birth-rate for England and Wales, which was 15.2, and the Death-rate being lower than that for the country, which was 11.3.

There has again been no serious epidemic of any of the notifiable infectious diseases in the town. No cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year and this was the twelfth year in which there have been no cases of this disease in the Borough. A total number of six new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified and one case of Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Deaths from Cancer numbered nine and this is a lower number than in any of the last twelve years except for the year 1951, when there were eight deaths. The death-rate from this disease for the year 1954 was lower than the death-rate for the country as a whole.

A total of twenty-four Council Houses was completed during the year. Of these houses twelve are flats for Old Persons and are on the ground floor. In addition to these Council Houses a further twelve private houses have been completed.

JAMES L. GREGORY,

Medical Officer of Health.

BOROUGH OF LUDLOW

STATISTICS, 1954

		Total	M.	F.
LIVE BIRTHS—				
Legitimate ...	...	103	48	55
Illegitimate ...	...	3	2	1
		—	—	—
Totals	...	106	50	56
		—	—	—

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population - 16.3

STILL BIRTHS—

Legitimate ...	...	...	4	3	1
Illegitimate ...	...	...	—	—	—
			—	—	—
Totals	...	4	3	1	—
		—	—	—	—

Still Birth Rate - 36.3

DEATHS	...	...	...	92	38	54
				—	—	—

Death Rate - 10.9 per 1,000 of population.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR—

		Infantile Number of deaths	Mortality Rate
(a) Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	5	47.1	
(b) Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	1	333.3	
(c) All infants per 1,000 total births	6	56.6	

DEATHS FROM Puerperal Causes:	Nil	—
		—

The following are the rates for England and Wales during the year with regard to Births, Deaths, Infantile Mortality, and Still Births :

Birth Rate	...	...	...	15.2
Death Rate	...	...	...	11.3
Infantile Mortality Rate	...	...	...	25.5
Still Birth Rate	...	...	...	24.0

SECTION A

SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND VITAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres) ...	...	...	...	1,068
Registrar-General's estimate of the population (mid-1954)	...	...	...	6,500
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	1,856
Rateable Value of the District	...	...	...	£40,931
Estimated product of 1d. Rate	...	...	...	£158

The estimated figure of population for mid-year, 1954, is 6,500. The figure for the year 1953 was 6,452, so there is an estimated increase of 48.

Births

There were 106 live births (males 50, females 56) and of these three (two males and one female) were illegitimate. The crude birth-rate was 16.3 and this was the same as the corrected birth-rate, as the "factor of comparability" was 1.00. (The Birth Rate for England and Wales was 15.2.)

Infantile Mortality

A total number of six infants died under the age of one year and this gives an Infantile Mortality Rate of 56.6 per 1,000 births. This is a higher rate than that in either of the two previous years and it is also higher than the rate for the country as a whole.

Still Births

There were four Still Births and this gives a rate of 36.3 per 1,000 total (live and still) Births.

Deaths

Deaths numbered 92 and this give a Crude Death-rate of 14.1. The corrected Death-rate was 10.9.

The number of deaths during the year was very much less than in the previous year, when there was a total of 124 deaths.

LOW LEVEL SUPPLY

				Parts per million
Total Solids in solution	...	...	...	222.00
Nitrogen in Nitrates	...	...	...	5.00
Nitrites	...	...	...	—
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	...	23.00
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 4 hours at 80 Fahr.	...	...	...	0.037
Free and Saline Ammonia	...	...	...	Nil
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	0.01
Lead. Copper. Zinc.	...	...	...	Nil
Microscopic Examination of the Sediment			...	Minute Trace
Temporary Hardness	...	...	...	200.00
Permanent Hardness	...	...	...	4.00
pH Value	...	...	...	7.0

The above chemical analysis is satisfactory.

(Signed) HAROLD LOWE

27.9.54.

HIGH LEVEL SUPPLY

Total Solids in solution	...	...	...	200.00
Nitrogen in Nitrates	...	...	...	0.12
Nitrites	...	...	...	—
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	...	14.00
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 4 hours at 80 F.	...	...	...	Nil
Free and Saline Ammonia	...	...	...	Nil
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	Nil
Lead. Copper. Zinc.	...	...	...	0.8 Zinc
Microscopical examination of Sediment			...	Nil
Temporary Hardness	...	...	...	145.00
Permanent Hardness	...	...	...	44.7
pH Value	...	...	...	7.4

The above chemical analysis is satisfactory.

(Signed) HAROLD LOWE

27.9.54.

During the year a total of ten million gallons of water was taken from the Elan Aqueduct Supply. This was less than was used from this supply in the previous year.

The Surveyor reports that there were no extensions to the existing mains during the year. A sample taken from a well supply serving two properties was found to be unsatisfactory and a notice was served on the owner. The houses were later connected to the mains supply.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

A total of 1,816 houses in the Borough are connected to the main sewers. A sample of effluent from the Sewage Disposal Works was taken by an official of the Severn River Water Board on the 25th January, 1955. The report on the analysis showed that the effluent was unsatisfactory as it was in the case of a sample taken in August, 1953. The report was as follows :

ANALYST'S REPORT

			Parts per million
Suspended Solids	...	...	42
Ash	...	...	15—36%
Biochemical Oxygen Demand (5 days at 20 C—dilution 1/50)	...	...	43
“Oxygen absorbed” 4 hours—settled	...	...	21.7
“ ” “ 4 hours—shaken	...	...	23.6
“ ” “ 3 minutes	...	...	—
Free Ammonia as N.	...	...	31
Nitrite as N.	...	...	Present
Nitrate	...	...	2.40
pH	...	...	7.69
Alkalinity to Methyl Orange (as CaCO ₃)	...	...	321
Chloride as CL.	...	...	83

GENERAL COMMENTS :

Unsatisfactory. The treatment is inadequate. Poor nitrification.

(Signed) D. F. A. PRICE,
Analyst.

In the above report the Suspended Solids at 42 Parts per million are higher than what is laid down as being the maximum number of Parts per million which should be allowed in any effluent (30 Parts per million). In the report received in 1953 on a sample the figure was 155 Parts per million, i.e., nearly four times what it is in the present Report.

The Biological Oxygen Demand is also higher than it should be, i.e., 43 Parts per million instead of a maximum of 20 Parts per million.

The Surveyor reports that there were no extensions to the main sewers during the year. Forty of the houses in the Borough are not connected to the sewers but the drainage from them is satisfactory. The Pump Plant and Disposal Works are generally in good order. The Media of filter No. 1 was cleaned during the year and a new rotary distributor was fitted to filter No. 3. A portion of the irrigation area has been overhauled and fresh channels formed.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Some nuisance was caused at the Refuse Tip by reason of fires and in September a regular attendant at the tip was appointed. It was found necessary to have some levelling done at the tip and in addition warning notices were put up and new entrance gates with locks were erected. The standard of conditions at the tip have been greatly improved as a result.

Salvage

The salvage of waste paper from business premises and shops has been continued throughout the year and a total of 66 tons was baled and sold. Some paper is also salvaged from the refuse tip by the attendant.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

During the year a total of 33 visits were made to private dwellings and a further total of 66 visits to business premises. Satisfactory results were obtained.

Factories and Workshops Inspections

All factories to which Section 34 of the Factory Act, 1937, applies have been granted certificates as to the adequacy of means

of escape from the buildings in case of fire. All new factories which come under this Section of the Act are inspected by an Officer of the County Fire Brigade and subsequent recommendations are incorporated in the certificate when it is issued. The Inspector reports that there are a total of eighty factories on the Register and of these 69 have power installed and 11 have no power. One hundred and twenty-four inspections were made and five written notices served with regard to defects found.

Premises	Number on Register	Defects Found	Defects Remedied
Factories without Power	...	11	1
Factories with Power	..	69	5
Other Premises in which Section 7 of the Act is enforced	...	—	—

SECTION D

HOUSING

New Council Houses

The twenty-four houses completed during the year were built at Sandpits Road. Twelve of these houses are flats for Old Persons and are on the ground floor. Above these flats are twelve three bed-roomed houses or maisonettes.

6. The number of demolition or closing orders made	...	...	...	...	Nil
7. The number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under sub-section (2) of the Housing Act, 1930 (s)	...	...	...	Nil	
8. The number of houses demolished	...	...	...	Nil	

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLY

Meat Inspection

In July the Ministry of Food gave up the control of the Slaughter House at Craven Arms and local authorities were asked to arrange that premises should be made available in their districts for the slaughtering of animals for human food.

Owing to the fact that many slaughter-houses had not been used for several years it was to be expected that some of them would have become into a poor condition. Another difficulty was that in some cases there was a shortage of men who had experience in the work of slaughtering animals.

Applications for licences for premises were submitted by five butchers in the town and, after the premises were examined and the necessary repairs carried out, licences were granted in each of the five cases. At the end of the year only three of the premises were being used, one of which is shared by two butchers. In the case of other butchers in the town, meat is supplied from the abattoir at Craven Arms, which is now operated by the Shropshire Fatstock Society, Ltd.

The Sanitary Inspector reports that slaughtering at the three premises in the town is carried out on certain days of the week and inspections are made of all carcases before they are removed from the places. Hides and waste matters are removed from each slaughter-house in sealed tins at the end of each day's slaughtering.

In each case the premises are kept clean and are generally maintained in a satisfactory manner. The following meat was condemned during the year :

Beef	...	...	121 lbs.	Tainted
Beef	...	...	36 lbs.	Bruised
Veal	...	...	41 lbs.	Dropsical
Sheeps' Livers	...	...	15 lbs.	Cirrhosis

Milk

The supervision of milk at farms is now under the Ministry of Agriculture and the local authority has to deal with retailers of milk and with dairies. There are two Dairy Farms in the town and these sell ungraded milk. There are three licensed dealers selling Tuberculin Tested Milk and one retailer selling Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk.

Ice Cream

The Inspector reports that there are now 32 registered retailers of ice cream in the Borough and all of these sell proprietary brands. Eight samples were taken during the year and these were all satisfactory (Grade 1). No ice cream is made in the town.

Unsound Food

The Inspector reports that during the year frequent visits were made to shops, cafes, snack bars, etc., and the conditions found were generally satisfactory. The following food-stuffs were condemned as being unfit for human consumption :

Milk	...	...	88 tins	Fish	...	...	57 tins
Fruit	...	...	255 tins	Flour	...	...	112 lbs.
			and 411 lbs.	Biscuits		...	13 tins
Cheese	...	...	25 lbs.	Meat	...	...	52 tins
Grain	...	...	112 lbs.	Soup	...	...	18 tins
Vegetables	...	...	59 tins	Biscuit Meal	...	...	112 lbs.

SECTION F

PREVENTION OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The following cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year in the Borough.

Notifications, 1954

Disease			Cases notified	Number of deaths
Erysipelas	...	...	2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	1	—
Tuberculosis : Pulmonary	...	...	6	3
Non-pulmonary		...	1	1

It will be seen that no serious outbreak of any infectious disease took place and there was no prevalence among the children of Measles or Whooping Cough.

The Infectious Diseases Hospital is at Monkmoor, Shrewsbury. Owing to the decreased number of patients suffering from any of the infectious diseases during recent years some of the wards at this Hospital are not now used for cases of these diseases but are used for children suffering from other diseases.

It is satisfactory to report that no case of Diphtheria was notified during the year and it is now twelve years since any case of this disease was notified in the town.

No case of Acute Poliomyelitis was notified.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis

The Ministry of Health sent a Circular, No. 5/55, in March, 1955, to all local authorities and this dealt with the need to continue the immunisation of children against Diphtheria. The object in view is to secure the immunisation of at least 75 per cent of all children before they reach the age of one year. The responsibility of providing Diphtheria Immunisation rests with County and County Borough Councils by virtue of Section 26 of the National Health Service Act, 1946. The following are figures which show the number of deaths and notifications (corrected) for England and Wales since 1945 :

Year		Deaths		Notifications
1945	...	722	...	18,596
1946	...	472	...	11,986
1947	...	244	...	5,609
1948	...	156	...	3,575
1949	...	84	...	1,890
1950	...	49	...	962
1951	...	33	...	664
1952	...	32	...	376
1953	...	23	...	266
1954	...	9	...	182

Tuberculosis

The number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year was as follows :

Males			Females			Total
Pulmon.	Non-pulmon.	...	Pulmon.	Non-pulmon.	...	
14	15	...	25	10	...	64

The total number on the Register is two more than at the end of the previous year. There is one less of the Male Pulmonary Cases and two more Female Pulmonary Cases and one more Female Non-pulmonary Case.

Deaths

The total number of deaths from Tuberculosis was four and this gives a death-rate of 0.615 per 1,000.

Of the total number three were from Pulmonary Tuberculosis (death-rate : 0.461 per 1,000) and one was from Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis (death-rate : 0.154).

It is intended to offer children aged 13 years a form of protection against Tuberculosis by the use of BGG vaccine. This has been used in Norway and other countries and although no claim has been made that every person treated in this way will be protected against the disease, there is now very little doubt that the power of resistance to the disease is raised by this means.

Cancer

Deaths from Cancer numbered nine (males 4, females 5). The death-rate from this disease was 1.384 per 1,000 and was

lower than the death-rate for the previous year. The death-rate for England and Wales was 2.035 per 1,000.

Of the four male deaths one was due to Cancer of the lung.

CAUSES OF DEATH

From the above figures it will be seen that of the total deaths which numbered 92 there were 65 deaths due to the first three conditions mentioned. This amounts to 70 per cent of the total.

In the previous year the total deaths numbered 124.

The death-rate (corrected) for the year 1954 is 10.9 and this compares favourably with the rate for 1953, which was 15.3.

The number of deaths from Cancer was nine as compared with a number of twenty-one in the previous year. The death-rate from this disease was 1.384 per 1,000 of the population and is less than the rate for the country as a whole, which was 2.035 per 1,000.

There was only one death from an accident. No death was caused by any accident due to a motor vehicle.

Printed by the Ludlow Advertiser Co., Ltd.